

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 4-5, 9-15 and 21-22 are amended, new Figure 3 is added, and the specification is amended.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that Claims 1-23 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings. Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of new Figure 3 obviates the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to Claims 1, 4-5, 9-10 and 15. Applicants respectfully submit that replacement of “dispenses” with “allows access to” in these claims obviates the objection. Applicants note that “allows access to” is broader than “dispenses”, and encompasses “dispenses”. For example, as described in numbered paragraph 0015 of the originally filed application, the dispenser can have multiple caches or compartments of food, and can provide a pet with access to different areas or portions or compartments of the dispenser. The Examiner's attention is also drawn for example to numbered paragraph 0017, which discloses that the dispenser can provide access to or dispense/eject food in response to specific animal behaviors. Applicants note that dispensing or ejecting food is a particular way of providing access to the food. For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the objection to Claims 1, 4-5, 9-10 and 15 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to Claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 21 as amended obviates this objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.


In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of Claim 1 to replace "hatch" with "access", and the amendments to Claims 11-14 and 21, obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested. In the event any questions arise regarding this communication or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

New Figure 3 is filed herewith. Figure 3 shows an exemplary dock and computing device, described for example in numbered paragraph [0019] of the originally filed application.